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ABSTRACT

Novel proteins that constitute modified forms of a *Neisseria meningitidis* surface antigen and encoding nucleic acids are provided. The modified surface proteins are characterized by having deletions of non-conserved amino acids, and thereby being

5 capable of eliciting cross-protective immune responses against *Neisseria meningitidis*. The invention extends to the use of the modified surface antigens in diagnostics, in therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines and in the design and/or screening of medicaments. The modified surface antigens are particularly useful in vaccines which effectively immunize against a broader spectrum of *N. meningitidis*

10 strains than would be expected from a corresponding wild-type surface antigen.

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